



DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
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FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

For Immediate Release

MOST PRICES DECLINE AT SPRING FUR SEAL AUCTION

Active bidding by a large attendance of fur buyers characterized the spring auction held by the Fouke Fur Company in St. Louis on April 7 at which 22,008 Government-owned fur seal skins from the Pribilof Islands in Alaska were sold for \$1,790,681, the Fish and Wildlife Service reported today to Secretary of the Interior Oscar L. Chapman.

The April 1951 auction brought \$2,591,796 for the Government-owned skins; the September sale, \$2,249,892.

The grand average for all United States Government skins at the April 1952 auction was \$81.27, a decline of 8.1 per cent below the September 1951 auction. The dyed "Matara" (brown) skins sold for an average of \$87.49, an advance of 1.3 per cent over last fall's sale. "Safari" brown (a lighter brown) skins declined 2.7 per cent to \$66.48, while the black skins declined 24.2 per cent to \$78.30. A total of 550 blue fox pelts averaged \$5.86, an advance of 7.7 per cent.

In addition to the United States-owned skins, the Fouke Fur Company sold 4,539 Cape of Good Hope fur seal skins for the Government of the Union of South Africa. These skins averaged \$24.27, a decline of 20 per cent.

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